

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the pending application is respectfully requested on the basis of the following particulars:

Rejection of Claims

In the recent Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 1 as anticipated by Ayd et al (U.S. 6,025,989). The Examiner indicated that claims 2-8 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and of any intervening claims.

The Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter is noted with appreciation. In this regard, Applicant has amended claim 1 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 2. Accordingly, claim 2 has been cancelled. It is respectfully submitted that claim 1, amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 2, is now allowable as indicated by the Examiner.

Claims 3, 4, and 8 have been amended to correct dependencies such that claims 3-8 now depend from claim 1. Regarding claims 3-8, because each of these claims now depend from claim 1, which is now allowable, each of the dependant claims 3-8 are now allowable.

Additional amendments have been made to correct minor grammatical or typographical errors.

Applicant respectfully submits that for at least these reasons, amended independent claim 1, and the corresponding dependent claims 3-8 are allowable over the prior art applied of record, because the prior art applied of record fails to disclose or suggest all of the elements of claim 1 and of the corresponding dependent claims 3-8.

Remaining art of record not relied upon to reject any claims

The amended claims have been compared with the remaining art cited by the Examiner and it is respectfully submitted that the claims are patentable over such prior art.

Conclusion

In view of the amendments to the claims, and in further view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is requested that claims 1, and 3-8 be allowed and the application be passed to issue.

If any issues remain that may be resolved by a telephone or facsimile communication with the Applicant's attorney, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the numbers shown.

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Respectfully submitted,



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